

Message Text

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E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN, OREP (FINDLEY, PAUL)

SUBJ: CONGRESSMAN FINDLEY'S IDEAS ON KOREAN PENINSULA

SUMMARY. DURING DISCUSSION WITH FONOFF OFFICIALS, CONGRESSMAN FINDLEY PROBED FOR NEW APPROACHES TO RESOLVING CONFRONTATION ON KOREAN PENINSULA. HE EXPRESSED STRONG INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING TIES BETWEEN US AND NORTH KOREA. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING CALL AUGUST 18 ON FONOFF DEP DIRGEN NORTH AMERICAN BUREAU FUKADA, CONGRESSMAN PAUL FINDLEY DELVED AT LENGTH INTO GOJ AND US ATTITUDES TOWARD THE KOREAS. HE STRESSED THAT US WAS FACED WITH TERRIBLE DILEMMA IN KOREA. WE HAD SACRIFICED AND BEEN "SEAREDD" DEEPLY BY THE AFTERMATH OF OUR EXPERIENCE IN THE KOREAN WAR AND RECENTLY BY OUR EXPERIENCE IN VIETNAM. HE WARNED FUKADA, NEITHER THE US CONGRESS NOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WOULD SUPPORT AMERICAN INVO-

LVEMENT AGAIN IN WAR IN KOREA. PARK'S INCREASINGLY REPRESSIVE REGIME WAS MAKING SUPPORT FOR ROK EVER MORE DIFFICULT. AMERICANS BEGIN TO SEE LITTLE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NORTH KOREA AND SOUTH KOREA. HE CAUTIONED FUKADA THAT HE SAW LITTLE CHANCE OF US MILITARY PRESENCE IN ROK FIVE YEARS FROM NOW.

2. FUKADA RESPONDED FORCEFULLY THAT PARK'S REGIME, LIKE MARCOS' AND SUHARTO'S WAS NOT DEMOCRATIC, WAS AUTOCRATIC, EVEN DICTATORIAL. CONFIDENTIAL

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NONETHELESS, SUCH COUNTRIES RETAINED THE CAPABILITY TO VEER AGAIN IN MORE POSITIVE DEMOCRATIC DIRECTIONS. MOREOVER, DESPITE NATURE OF INTERNAL POLITICS, THEY WERE PART OF "FREE WORLD"; IF THEY BECAME "SOCIALIST" STATES, THEY WOULD LIKELY BE PERMANENTLY UNDER

DICTATORSHIPS AND WOULD BE ESSENTIALLY HOSTILE TO OUR COUNTRIES AND SUPPORTIVE OF THE SOCIALIST BLOC.

3. AFTER FUKADA MENTIONED DIETMAN UTSUNOMIYA'S AND THE LDP DIETMEN'S RECENT VISITS TO NORTH KOREA, FINDLEY EXPRESSED APPROVAL AND SAID HE ALSO HOPED THE REPORT THAT SENATOR MANSFIELD WAS GOING TO PYONGYANG WAS TRUE. WE SHOULD INCREASE CONTACT WITH NORTH KOREANS AND BRING THEM FROM THEIR ISOLATION. FINDLEY ASKED IF JAPAN HAD ANY OFFICIAL TIES WITH NORTH KOREA AND THEN ASKED IF ANY COUNTRIES HAD DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH BOTH KOREAS. FINALLY, HE ASKED EMOFF ESCORT IF THERE WERE ANY CONTACT BETWEEN NORTH KOREAN AND

US OFFICIALS. FINDLEY THEN SUGGESTED THAT THE US SHOULD ESTABLISH TIES WITH NK. FUKADA AND EMOFF EXPLAINED THE "CROSS-RECOGNITION" PROPOSAL (JAPAN AND US TO RECOGNIZE NORTH KOREA AS TRADE-OFF FOR USSR AND PRC TO RECOGNIZE SOUTH KOREA). FINDLEY ASKED RHETORICALLY WHY DIPLOMATS ALWAYS INSISTED ON QUID PRO QUO. HE AGREED WITH BRITISH THAT WHOMEVER WAS IN POWER SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED.

3. WHEN ASKED BY FINDLEY WHAT JAPAN WOULD THINK IF US IMPROVED TIES WITH NORTH KOREA, FUKADA EXPLAINED IN SOME DETAIL THAT IF IMPROVEMENT WAS UNDERTAKEN IN CONSULTATION WITH ROK (AND JAPAN) AND CARRIED OUT IN A CONSTRUCTIVE FASHION WHICH DID NOT UNDERMINE OR DESTABLIZE THE ROK, HE THOUGHT THAT THE JAPANESE PEOPLE WOULD WELCOME SUCH A DEVELOPMENT. WHAT HE AND GOJ WERE CONCERNED ABOUT WAS THAT MOVES TOWARD NORTH KOREA NOT JEOPARDIZE THE ROK'S STABILITY OR INTERNATIONAL POSITION.

4. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION AT FINDLEY'S INSTIGATION, EMOFF BRIEFED FINDLEY ON USG/GOJ RESOLUTIONS IN UNGA PROPOSING SIMULTANEOUS ADMISSION OF KOREAS TO UN AND DISCUSSED "CROSS RECOGNITION"FORMULA FURTHER.

5. COMMENT. FINDLEY IS STRONGLY ATTRACTED TO SEARCH FOR NEW INITIATIVES REGARDING THE KOREAS TO FIND RELIEF FROM WHAT HE REGARDS AS UNTENABLE LONG-TERM RETENTION OF US TROOPS IN ROK AND TO FIND ALTERNATIVES TO STERILE CONFRONTATION WHICH PREVAILS ON THE KOREAN PEN-
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INSULA. WHEN HE ASKED IF THERE WERE THOSE IN USG THINKING OF DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO KOREAN PROBLEM, EMOFF REPLIED THAT DEPARTMENT'S POLICY PLANNING STAFF REGULARLY STUDIES ALTERNATIVES ON ALL IMPORTANT POLICY ISSUES.
HODGSON

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